P. d'L. Co. — for appendix — No 4

From the Meeting for Sufferings in London

24th: 3rd Month 1776

To Friends of the Meeting for Sufferings in Philadelphia

Dear Friends & Brethren

Deeply affected with a Sence of the many difficulties, and tryals with which you are Exercised, & earnestly desiring to Manifest our Brotherly regard, and Sympathy, We Affectionately Salute you; and we trust, in a degree of Gospel Love, and Fellowship

Your Epistle Dated the 5th of 11th month last came duly to hand; and the several particulars it contained recommended to the Notice of this Meeting were Satisfactory, and may hereafter be mentioned, as occasion may require

At present we feel Ourselves Anxiously engaged by the prospect of the Public Calamities which seem to threaten the Peace and Tranquility of this Extensive Empire. And to Unite with yours, our fervent desires for the Restoration & Establishment of Harmony and Concord amongst all our Fellow Subjects

Divested as we are, and perhaps much to our safety, of all other Authority, and power; except that which arises from the Rectitude of our Lives, and Conversations, under the Influence of Divine Grace, and favor, Our Conduct in the present Situation of affairs is happily Circumscribed within plain, and Narrow bounds, to Walk humbly, & Circumspectly amidst the present troubles, giving no just Cause of Offence to our Lawful Superiors by Contending for our just Rights and Liberties in any other way

than by a Patient Submission and proper Respectful Remonstrances; neither to seek occasions of Manifesting an Intemperate opposition to those who may think themselves engaged to pursue different measures.

Divers, and we trust, Rightly concerned Friends, have found themselves engaged here, to use all possible endeavours to promote a temper of Christian Lenity, and forbearance in our Superiors; and whilst we Embraced every opportunity of Asserting the Innocency of Friends, to Urge the Expediency of extending moderation to the most Censurable & worthy of Rebuke.

Our Friends here, have found themselves engaged, after much weighty and Solemn Deliberation, to present a Petition to the King; a Copy of which is Inclosed ---- The same was favorably received, and whatever distress may Ensue, we shall have the Satisfaction of having discharged our Duty.

We are Affected with deep concern at the prevailing & Increasing Animosities which indeed seem to threaten the Liberties which America hath hitherto enjoyed: Under such Circumstances, to promote amongst ourselves the Strictest Harmony and Concord, is most Assuredly our reasonable Duty; and to observe a Steady, prudent, Inoffensive Conduct towards all Men; looking and Waiting for wisdom Superior to our own, whereby we may not only be Enabled to possess ourselves in Patience, but be made Instrumental in promoting peace and Harmony amongst others.

Let us therefore, Dear Friends, in much Meekness and fear keep to the Rock of our Munition; Let neither present provocations nor the fear of future Evils, nor the vain hopes of favor from this, or that party, draw us from the place of true Refuge.

May the power and Wisdom of God dwell among you, and therein as you abide, your Consolation will be sure, whatever Tryals

in the Course of Providence may be permitted &c.

We Salute you in much Love, and are your Friends and Brethren.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting

Copy Certified by

Thomas Gould Clk

Monthly Meeting for Sufferings in Philadelphia 6mo. 15th. 1775.

The last Epistle from the Meeting for Sufferings in London being again Read, & on considering the weighty advice therein contained, it is the Unanimous Sentiments of this Meeting, that Copies be sent to the Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings, within the Compass of our Yearly Meeting, which the Clerk is directed to get done, and forward as speedy as may be to the Clerks of the several Meetings.

Extracted from the Minutes

John Pemberton Clerk

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Philad.a Meeting
for Sufferings